



## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

SB3410

Introduced 2/7/2012, by Sen. Ira I. Silverstein

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.54  
105 ILCS 5/34-18.46

Amends the School Code. Provides that a school board's concussion and head injury policy must require that a student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game be removed from play at that time. Requires the policy to provide that a student athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play until the student athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and head injuries and the student athlete receives written clearance to return to play from that health care provider. Makes technical changes having a revisory function.

LRB097 19911 NHT 65201 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES  
ACT MAY REQUIRE  
REIMBURSEMENT

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by renumbering and  
5 changing Sections 10-20.54 and 34-18.46 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.54)

7 Sec. 10-20.54 ~~10-20.53~~. Student athletes; concussions and  
8 head injuries.

9 (a) The General Assembly recognizes all of the following:

10 (1) Concussions are one of the most commonly reported  
11 injuries in children and adolescents who participate in  
12 sports and recreational activities. The Centers for  
13 Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as  
14 3,900,000 sports-related and recreation-related  
15 concussions occur in the United States each year. A  
16 concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or  
17 body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the  
18 skull. The risk of catastrophic injuries or death are  
19 significant when a concussion or head injury is not  
20 properly evaluated and managed.

21 (2) Concussions are a type of brain injury that can  
22 range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain  
23 normally works. Concussions can occur in any organized or

1 unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result  
2 from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the  
3 ground, or with obstacles. Concussions occur with or  
4 without loss of consciousness, but the vast majority of  
5 concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

6 (3) Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of  
7 a head injury leaves a young athlete especially vulnerable  
8 to greater injury and even death. The General Assembly  
9 recognizes that, despite having generally recognized  
10 return-to-play standards for concussions and head  
11 injuries, some affected youth athletes are prematurely  
12 returned to play, resulting in actual or potential physical  
13 injury or death to youth athletes in this State.

14 (b) Each school board shall adopt a policy regarding  
15 student athlete concussions and head injuries that is in  
16 compliance with the protocols, policies, and by-laws of the  
17 Illinois High School Association. In addition, the policy shall  
18 require that a student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a  
19 concussion or head injury in a practice or game be removed from  
20 play at that time. The policy shall provide that a student  
21 athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play  
22 until the student athlete is evaluated by a licensed health  
23 care provider trained in the evaluation and management of  
24 concussions and head injuries and the student athlete receives  
25 written clearance to return to play from that health care  
26 provider.

1 Information on the school board's concussion and head  
2 injury policy must be a part of any agreement, contract, code,  
3 or other written instrument that a school district requires a  
4 student athlete and his or her parents or guardian to sign  
5 before participating in practice or interscholastic  
6 competition.

7 (c) The Illinois High School Association shall make  
8 available to all school districts, including elementary school  
9 districts, education materials, such as visual presentations  
10 and other written materials, that describe the nature and risk  
11 of concussions and head injuries. Each school district shall  
12 use education materials provided by the Illinois High School  
13 Association to educate coaches, student athletes, and parents  
14 and guardians of student athletes about the nature and risk of  
15 concussions and head injuries, including continuing play after  
16 a concussion or head injury.

17 (Source: P.A. 97-204, eff. 7-28-11; revised 10-7-11.)

18 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.46)

19 Sec. 34-18.46 ~~34-18.45~~. Student athletes; concussions and  
20 head injuries.

21 (a) The General Assembly recognizes all of the following:

22 (1) Concussions are one of the most commonly reported  
23 injuries in children and adolescents who participate in  
24 sports and recreational activities. The Centers for  
25 Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as

1           3,900,000 sports-related and recreation-related  
2 concussions occur in the United States each year. A  
3 concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or  
4 body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the  
5 skull. The risk of catastrophic injuries or death are  
6 significant when a concussion or head injury is not  
7 properly evaluated and managed.

8           (2) Concussions are a type of brain injury that can  
9 range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain  
10 normally works. Concussions can occur in any organized or  
11 unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result  
12 from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the  
13 ground, or with obstacles. Concussions occur with or  
14 without loss of consciousness, but the vast majority of  
15 concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

16           (3) Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of  
17 a head injury leaves a young athlete especially vulnerable  
18 to greater injury and even death. The General Assembly  
19 recognizes that, despite having generally recognized  
20 return-to-play standards for concussions and head  
21 injuries, some affected youth athletes are prematurely  
22 returned to play, resulting in actual or potential physical  
23 injury or death to youth athletes in this State.

24           (b) The board shall adopt a policy regarding student  
25 athlete concussions and head injuries that is in compliance  
26 with the protocols, policies, and by-laws of the Illinois High

1 School Association. In addition, the policy shall require that  
2 a student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion  
3 or head injury in a practice or game be removed from play at  
4 that time. The policy shall provide that a student athlete who  
5 has been removed from play may not return to play until the  
6 student athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider  
7 trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and  
8 head injuries and the student athlete receives written  
9 clearance to return to play from that health care provider.

10 Information on the board's concussion and head injury  
11 policy must be a part of any agreement, contract, code, or  
12 other written instrument that the school district requires a  
13 student athlete and his or her parents or guardian to sign  
14 before participating in practice or interscholastic  
15 competition.

16 (c) The Illinois High School Association shall make  
17 available to the school district education materials, such as  
18 visual presentations and other written materials, that  
19 describe the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries.  
20 The school district shall use education materials provided by  
21 the Illinois High School Association to educate coaches,  
22 student athletes, and parents and guardians of student athletes  
23 about the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries,  
24 including continuing play after a concussion or head injury.

25 (Source: P.A. 97-204, eff. 7-28-11; revised 10-7-11.)